Loan facilities to farmers living in Border Areas

†3273. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of farmers living in border areas have been deprived of agricultural loan facilities;

(b) is so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) if not, the percentage of such farmers in the country who are getting these loan facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)/ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development NABARD have reported that rural branches of commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks including primary agricultural credit societies and State Land Development Banks purvey credit in the rural areas including the remote areas in the country. The data generating system of RBI and NABARD does not generate information separately in the manner asked for. However, the ground level flow of credit to agriculture sector by all agencies has increased from Rs. 26,411 crores in the year 1996-97 to Rs. 41,764 crores in the year 1999-2000. The banks have projected a target at Rs. 51,460 crores for disbursement to agriculture during the year 2000-2001 (April-March). Information regarding the percentage of farmers in border areas getting credit facilities are not available separately.

Request for Release of fund by Kerala Government

3274. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government has requested the Central Government for releasing of funds for Panchayat institutions; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) (a) and (b) The grant of Rs. 178.81 crores to the Panchyati Raj Institutions of Kerala recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission has been fully released to the State Government.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.